Good evening, my name is John Horwitz, President of The Cleveland Township Association. We have represented the interests of more than 2500 families in Cleveland Township for over eight years. I am speaking on behalf of all of the concerned families who could not come to this meeting.

Our organization has brought a new library facility to the community and successfully stopped the expansion of a trailer park in the area which would have adversely affected the quality of life for our residents. In researching the impact of an additional 280 housing units in Cobus Green Mobile Home Park, we commissioned water studies from 1990 to 1993 along Cobus Creek, a natural cold water stream originating in southern Michigan and flowing south to the Saint Joe River. Our findings, conducted by St. Joe River Basin Commission / Michiana Area Council of Governments found heavy metals (Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Lead, Mercury, Nickel, and Zink) in the waterway. This list is less than half of the material found in the water, however it mirrors what EPA found as contaminants in the ground and ground water at Himco Dump. Cobus Creek is within a credible distance from the Himco dump to be affected by a large scale migration of contaminants.

EPA Background: The Himco Site

The Himco Site covers approximately 60 acres at Country Road 10 and Napanee Street Extension. The dump is located above a continuous portion of the shallow aquifer system that is the sole source of drinking water for the community. A conservative estimate is that wells within 3 miles of the site serving 20,000 people may be effected. The Himco Waste Away Services owned this site and operated it between 1960 and September of 1976. Parts of the non-marshy area were excavated to a depth of 10-20 feet, and together with the marshy area were filled with general refuse, medical, pharmaceutical and other industrial wastes.

The Indiana State Board of Health responded to resident complaints in 1971 and identified the site as an open dump. Residents approximately 200 feet down-gradient experienced discoloration and foaming in water from their shallow wells as a result of contamination from leachate, a solution formed from water running through the landfill. Deeper wells were installed, but they became contaminated in time. These residents were finally connected to the Elkhart City water supply in 1990 by contractors paid for by Himco Waste-Away and Miles Inc.

Modern sanitary landfills are constructed to prevent leachate contamination of groundwater or surface waters. The bottom of the modern landfill is lined with impermeable layers such as clay and plastic. There has never been such an impermeable layer in this landfill. During an inspection in 1984, EPA also observed several streams of leachate, as well as gas odors and volatile gas organic compounds (VOCS), semi-VOCs, and metals. The landfill at the time was about 15 feet above the ground in the middle, and around 5 feet above ground at the edges. Additional sampling in 1990, 1991, and 1995 found low-level groundwater contamination outside the landfill boundaries. Another problem specific to this site is that there are no existing natural barriers to pollution (no layers of clay, shale, or rock to confine the water table from pollutants). This is called an unconfined aquifer. Water tables in this area do not conform to land topography. Down-

gradient is like down river, except that ground waters tend to have a much slower flow rate. In this case it is estimated that the water moves at 121 feet per year, which means pollution will remain in the ground and groundwater system for decades after the contamination source has been removed. Using this figure, the pollution in the ground may have already traveled as much as a mile from the source.

The EPA detected selenium, arsenic, copper, lead, mercury, zinc, manganese, and other metals in monitoring wells down-gradient of the site. Manganese is a toxic pollutant, and some studies at Dartmouth College in 1997 linked the pollutant to violent crime. English scientists have theorized that manganese pollution causes Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). We are all too familiar with the animal component of CJD, it is Mad Cow Disease. Analysis of residential wells conducted in 1974 by the State, showed high manganese levels.

EPA Analysis:

Analysis of the groundwater in the area, collected from 1978 to 2000, shows that the Himco Dump Site continues to degrade groundwater in the area. It has been determined that benzene, 1,2 dicholorpane, trichloroethene, 1,1 dichloroethane, 1,2 dichloroethene, antimony, arsenic, bromine, chromium, iron, manganese, and thallium are all present in the groundwater below the site. There are a number of other pollutants as well. The highest concentrations were measured in the southeast corner of the site, northwest of the intersection of Country Road 10 and John Weaver Parkway. The dump is also listed fourth on U.S. Radiation Sites, Indiana. as a Contaminated Site, and it was placed on the National Priority List for cleanup. In 1990 an alternative water supply was extended to residences with private wells living south of the landfill, and was funded by Miles Inc. and Himco. On May 7, 1992 a contractor for Himco conducted a site assessment and found numerous contaminants in buried leaking drums. Seventy one 55 gallon drums were found and removed in 1992 by Himco under a removal action consent order. A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in 1993. It has been determined that residents in the area may have cause for concern if they come into contact with leached chemicals via drinking water, physical contact or consumption of soil, or through fishing or swimming in nearby water sources. EPA findings also estimate excessive cancer risks for nearby residents. Four cancer related deaths and one serious illness have been reported.

Proposed Cleanup

The EPA will put a cap on the landfill. This cap should limit rainfall runoff and direct contact with the waste, and contain escaping gas. It will not stop pollution already in the dump from reaching the water table. The EPA has stated that it does not need to do groundwater remediation outside the area because "data do not conclusively indicate that groundwater outside the boundaries of the contaminated areas is currently being impacted by the site contaminants." The EPA also states " During the rainy parts of the year, the landfill waste is in contact with the ground water..."

Consequences of a Landfill Cap

Studies have shown (1) that in developed watersheds the rainwater discharge could increase as much as 500 % compared to pre-development rates. While this study mainly focused on areas that had been industrialized, it raises the question of how diverting water from the top of a landfill to its' perimeter may affect the surrounding area. The EPA has established that the dump is partially submerged during the wet season and has found contamination outside of the dump area. Diverting a large quantity of water over the top of the land fill would inevitably lead to absorption into the ground at a point that is already contaminated by the underground plume of pollutants that have had more than forty three years to migrate. This would cause the surrounding area to become super-saturated and hasten the spread of the plume of contaminants deeper into the community.

Future Use / Economic Impact

In an article in The Elkhart Truth, I learned that the City of Elkhart had been given a $ 40,000 grant to study possible re use of this dump site. It has been suggested that the area be used as an industrial park or a hockey rink.

The impact of industrializing this area would create additional air and waterborne pollution. It is unclear if the ground contamination could ever be removed to sufficiently guarantee the safety of our children. It has been estimated that a temporary remedy (the cap) would cost 14 million dollars and an additional 17 million dollars may need to be spent in the future to remediate water problems.

I would suggest that a better use for this land would be to establish Elkhart City Hall at the present Himco Dump Site. If our politicians are convinced that no threat to our health and safety exists, let them lead us by their example.

And finally to Mr. Hill of The EPA

I read your response this morning to my letter to the editor in Sundays Elkhart Truth. I have personally surveyed 50 area families about this matter. One was targeted in the dump area, the others were a random sampling of my community. Of those surveyed, only two families had gotten your letter. Our organization has provided the community with a beautiful library in the heart of Cleveland Township. Your documents should have been placed in our library, a location more convenient to the community affected by the dump. When I visited the branch library at Pierre Moran, only half of the library staff knew the whereabouts of your material.

It is our feeling that your plan merely offers to cover up the problem, not clean it up. Shame on you Mr. Hill

John Horwitz, President, Cleveland Township Association
29098 C. R. 12
Elkhart, IN. 46513

(1) ("Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Urbanization on Streams: A comprehensive Strategy for Local Government," Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (Schuler, 1987)

U.S. Radiation Sites IN

1. **Indiana U. ***
   Industry &
   Bloomington, IN

   Broad academic license for teaching & research
   Multicurie quantities various radionuclides

2. **Crane Army Base ***
   contaminated
   Crane Ammo Base,

   NPL Site
   Contaminated Bldg

3. **Wabash Coll. ***
   Industry & Science
   Crawfordsville, IN

   Broad academic license for teaching & research
   Multicurie quantities various radionuclides

4. **Himco Inc. Dump**
   contaminated site
   Elkhart, IN
   NPL Site

5. **Allison Engine**
   Industry & Science
   Indianapolis, IN

   Source Mtl. > 150Kg.
   Fabrication/research/manufacture

6. **Butler U.**
   Industry & Science
   Indianapolis, IN

   Byproduct Material Possession Only
   Residual contamination & other byproduct material

7. **Dowelanco ***
   Industry & Science
   Indianapolis, IN

   Broad academic license for teaching & research
   Multicurie quantities various radionuclides

8. **Eli Lilly ***
   Industry & Science
   Indianapolis, IN

   Research & Development Broad type A
   Diversity in use of various radionuclides / multi-curie ranges

9. **Indiana U. ***
   Industry & Science
   Indianapolis, IN

   Broad medical license for teaching & research
   Wide range of radionuclides

10. **Merrell Dow ***
    Industry & Science
    Indianapolis, IN

    Research & Development Broad type A
    Diversity in use of various radionuclides / multi-curie ranges

11. **Methodist Hosp. ***
    Industry & Science
    Indianapolis, IN

    Broad medical license for teaching & research
    Wide range of radionuclides

12. **V.A. Hospital, Indianapolis**
    Industry & Science
    Indianapolis, IN

    Rad Experiments
    1957-70(A.Lepp/A.Schultz/J.Mealey/L.Oliner/P.Hardi

13. **V.A. Med . Cen. ***
    Industry & Science
    Indianapolis, IN

    Broad medical license for teaching & research
    Wide range of radionuclides

14. **Jefferson Proving ***
    contaminated site
    Jefferson, IN

    NPL Site
    depleted uranium/ test site

15. **Allied Signal Aerospace**

Industry & Science
Mishawaka, IN

Source Mtl. > 150Kg.
Fabrication/research/manufacture

16. **Dana Heavy Water**
Production
Newport, IN

heavy water production
Shutdown 1959

17. **Notre Dame U. ***
Industry & Science
Notre Dame, IN

Broad academic license for teaching & research
Multicurie quantities various radionuclides

18. **Indiana State U. ***
Industry & Science
Terre Haute, IN

R & D Broad type A/Byproduct Material
Radionuclides in the multi-curie rangescurie range

19. **Pitman-Moore ***
Industry & Science
Terre Haute, IN

Research & Development Broad type A
Diversity in use of various radionuclides / multi-curie ranges

20. **Valpariso Univ.**
Industry & Science
Valpariso, IN

Source Mtl. > 150Kg.
Fabrication/research/manufacture

21. **Purdue ***
Univ. Research
West Lafayette, IN

1KW
Broad academic/critical mass license

Iowa
STATE LIST